Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraphs [0007] and [0015] as follows:

[0007] In another aspect of the invention there is provided a ceramic article comprising predominantly a solid-solution of beta-spodumene ranging in molar ratio from 1:1:4 Li_2O ~~LiO_2~~-Al_2O_3-SiO_2 to 1:1:11 Li_2O ~~LiO_2~~-Al_2O_3-SiO_2 wherein magnesium oxide (MgO), manganese oxide (MnO), or cobalt oxide (CoO) is substituted for lithium oxide (Li_2O ~~LiO_2~~) at 10 to 65 mole %, preferably 25 to 50 mole %. In one embodiment the ceramic article further comprises a minor phase of mullite ($3Al_2O_3$-$2SiO_2$) in an amount of up to 50% by weight. Beta-spodumene ceramic articles of this type have a limited amount of lithium for improved catalyst lifetime resistance, in combination with high strength, low thermal expansion and high porosity.

[0015] The invention also relates to a ceramic article comprising predominantly a solid-solution of beta-spodumene ranging in molar ratio from 1:1:4 Li_2O ~~LiO_2~~-Al_2O_3-SiO_2 to 1:1:11 Li_2O ~~LiO_2~~-Al_2O_3-SiO_2 wherein magnesium oxide (MgO), manganese oxide (MnO), or cobalt oxide (CoO) is substituted for lithium oxide (Li_2O~~LiO_2~~) at 10 to 65 mole %, preferably 25 to 50 mole %. Inventive bodies may further include a minor phase of mullite ($3Al_2O_3$-$2SiO_2$) in an amount of up to 50% by weight.